

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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O R 041345Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8039

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

EUCOM

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 5022

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT RESIGNS, DEMIREL EXPEXPECTED TO BE DESIGNATED TO  
FORM A GOVERNMENT

REF: ANKARA 5021 (031420Z)

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER LOSING THE INITIAL PARLIAMENTARY VOTE

OF CONFIDENCE JULY 3 (REFTEL), REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

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(RPP) CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT DELIVERED HIS RESIGNATION TO  
PRESIDENT KORUTURK, WHO ASKED HIM TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE  
UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORMED. ACCORDING TO  
PARLIAMENTARY AND JOURNALISTIC SOURCES, JUSTICE PARTY (JP)  
CHAIRMAN DEMIREL HAS BEEN ASKED TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT LATER  
THIS AFTERNOON, JULY 4, AND THE PRESUMPTION IS THAT HE WILL  
BE ASKED TO TRY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT.

2. THERE IS VARIED SPECULATION ABOUT DEMIREL'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN FORMING A COALITION WITH TWO OF HIS FORMER PARTNERS, ERBAKAN'S NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), NOW REDUCED TO 24 SEATS, AND TURKES'S NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP), WHICH HAS QUADRUPLED ITS REPRESENTATION TO 16 SEATS. MOST WELL-INFORMED PERSONS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED BELIEVE THAT DEMIREL WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN COMING TO TERMS WITH ERBAKAN AND TURKES AND PROBABLY WILL FAIL. JP SENATOR KAMRAN INAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, TOLD US THAT HE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO A COALITION WITH ERBAKAN "UNLESS IT CAN BE ARRANGED AT OUR PRICE, NOT AT HIS". ANOTHER JP SENATOR EARLIER TOLD US THAT HE AND SOME OTHERS IN THE PARTY WOULD BE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO RENEWING THE COALITION WITH ERBAKAN AND TURKES BECAUSE THE PREVIOUS COALITION HAD BEEN UNPOPULAR, ESPECIALLY WITH THE INTELLECTUALS, AND, AS HE PUT IT, "NO MAJOR PARTY CAN AFFORD TO ALIENATE THE COUNTRY'S INTELLIGENTSIA". HOWEVER, THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, DEPUTY ORHAN ALP, WHO TENDS TO BE OPTIMISTIC BUT REFLECTS FAIRLY FAITHFULLY DEMIREL'S VIEWS, TOLD US THAT HE BELIEVED THE COALITION COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHIN A WEEK. NONETHELESS, LATER IN THE CONVERSATION HE INDICATED A PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR THE FORMATION OF A JP-RPP COALITION.

3. MEANWHILE, PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DEMIREL AND HIS TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POTENTIAL COALITION PARTNERS HAVE BEEN NON-COMMITTAL. DEMIREL, IN A STATEMENT AFTER THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, STRONGLY ATTACKED THE ECEVIT CABINET FOR "OCCUPATION" OF THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR BEING GREEDY FOR POWER, BUT, WHILE ASSERTING THAT A MAJORITY-BASED GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORMED, MADE NO MENTION OF ANY POSSIBLE COALITION FORMULA. ERBAKAN, SPEAKING IN HIS OWN PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AFTER THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THE PARTY'S REJECTION OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT ON GROUNDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM DID NOT MENTION HEAVY INDUSTRY OR NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY. HE WENT ON TO DECLARE THAT THE NSP WOULD DO ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT LOSS OF TIME. FOR THIS REASON, ERBAKAN SAID THE PARTY'S GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS MEETING THAT DAY (JULY 3) AND THE PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING DAY TO DISCUSS THE PARTY'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE GOVERNMENT. TURKES, LIKE DEMIREL, ATTACKED THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AND TOLD MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY THAT IT WAS NECESSARY THAT DEMIREL BE GIVEN THE DUTY OF FORMING THE GOVERNMENT.

4. ECEVIT, AFTER CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT JULY 3, TOLD

REPORTERS THAT A DURABLE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE FORMED WITHOUT THE RPP; HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RPP-JP COALITION, HE SAID HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT. (JP POLITICIANS WE HAVE TALKED WITH CHARACTERIZED ECEVIT'S ANSWER AS A "POSITIVE" DEVELOPMENT.) MEANWHILE, ECEVIT SAID, HIS CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS DUTY AND WOULD COME DOWN HARD ON ANY GROUP THAT ATTEMPTED TO DISTURB DOMESTIC PEACE.

5. REPUBLICAN RELAINCE PARTY (RR) CHAIRMAN FEYZIOGLU, WHOSE SMALL PARTY HAD ABSTAINED FROM THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, TOLD THE PRESS JULY 3 THAT HE CONTINUED TO FAVOR A RPP-JP COALITION. HE CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES.

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## Message Attributes

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